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THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



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**REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER
BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Mar del Plata, Argentina, 6 September 2005

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mandate

1. The thirteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in compliance with the provisions of the Regional Plan of Action as adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana, Cuba, in 1977, and in accordance with the commitments made at the United Nations inter-agency coordination meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, on 6 May 1999.

Place and date of the meeting

2. In accordance with the above-mentioned mandates, the thirteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 6 September 2005.

Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following programmes and funds of the United Nations system: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

4. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies also attended: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

5. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

B. AGENDA

6. The participants at the meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Follow-up to the Mexico City Consensus and to the recommendations adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women
3. Joint tasks in follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals

4. The region's contribution to the world study on violence against women
5. Other matters

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

7. After welcoming participants, the Secretary of the Commission of ECLAC recalled the role played by the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system in the processes initiated at the First World Conference on Women (Mexico City, 1975) for promoting gender equity. Thirty years later, on the eve of the new session of the United Nations General Assembly, there were no new international agreements in sight. She therefore urged participants to focus especially on the agenda item relating to joint tasks in follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals in order to consider the current situation carefully and identify the steps that would enable them to advance towards greater equality for women in the context of the signed agreements.

Follow-up to the Mexico City Consensus and to the recommendations adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (agenda item 2)

8. The participants at the meeting considered the activities being conducted in follow-up to the Mexico City Consensus and the Millennium Declaration, with a view to identifying those that required strengthening and those that the international community should start to implement in a coordinated manner in the region.

9. From the activity reports presented by participants, it was clear that the United Nations bodies had been actively implementing the Mexico City Consensus. There were significant areas of convergence, especially with respect to poverty, employment and social protection (the same issues that were scheduled to be considered at the thirty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the next ECLAC session) as well as on the issues of HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence and the impact of international remittances.

Joint tasks in follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (agenda item 3)

10. In terms of strengthening their joint activities, the participants underscored the importance of taking account of the good practices developed in recent years. Examples of such practices were the preparation of the chapter on goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals in the inter-agency report coordinated by ECLAC and the development of an integrated system of gender statistics, in which all the bodies of the system collaborated. Most of the national statistical institutes in the region provided support for the development of this system through the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

The region's contribution to the world study on violence against women (agenda item 4)

11. The representative of the ECLAC secretariat informed participants that the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women had requested assistance in the preparation of an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. The study had been commissioned by the General Assembly in resolutions 58/185 and 59/167 and was due to be presented to that body in 2006 during the sixtieth session.

D. AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

12. In view of the lessons learned and in response to the request received from the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, the organizations represented at the thirteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies agreed to concentrate their efforts of coordination on the following three important activities:

1. The establishment of an inter-agency working group on violence against women in all its manifestations, to be coordinated by ECLAC. It was agreed that ECLAC would prepare a working proposal with the support of at least two other organizations and would circulate it within two months to the organizations that had participated in the thirteenth meeting.
2. The development, under the guidance of ECLAC, of a joint communications strategy which would link the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals with international agreements for gender equity, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development.
3. The composition of a letter to the Director of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to inform her of the establishment of the inter-agency working group on violence against women, which would assume responsibility for preparing the regional contribution to the world study on violence against women requested by the United Nations General Assembly, including the hiring of a consultant to prepare a preliminary regional report.

13. The participants further agreed:

1. To send to ECLAC all available information and studies on poverty, employment and social protection.
2. To continue to produce statistical information, primarily in relation to unpaid work in the home.
3. To organize a meeting of experts on migration and remittances at which each organization in the United Nations system would report on its activities and which representatives of the Governments of the region would be invited to attend.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**A. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas****United Nations bodies****Organisations rattachées à l'Organisation des Nations Unies****Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Población (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population (UNFPA)**

- Luis Mora, asesor, Equipo de Apoyo Técnico para América Latina y el Caribe/Advisor, Country Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean
- María del Carmen Feijoo, Oficial de enlace, oficina Argentina/UNFPA Representative for Argentina

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/Fond des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF)

- Christine Norton, Asesora regional de género y adolescencia/Regional Advisor, Adolescent Development and Gender Equality
- Liv Elin Indreiten, Oficial de programas de género y adolescencia de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Programme Officer of Adolescent Development and Gender Equality Section

Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer (UNIFEM)/United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)/Fonds de développement des Nations Unies pour la femme (UNIFEM)

- Ana Falú, Directora Regional de Programa, Cono Sur/Regional Programme Director, Southern Cone
- Moni Pizani, Directora Regional de Programa, Región Andina/Regional Programme Director, Andean Region
- Teresa Rodríguez, Directora, Oficina Regional para México, Centroamérica, Cuba, República Dominicana y Haití/Director, Regional Office for Mexico, Central America, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement

- Valeria Ambrosio, Oficial de programas, género y políticas públicas, Chile

B. Organismos especializados**Specialized agencies****Institutions spécialisées****Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO)**

- María Paz Echeverriarza, Oficial nacional de programa, Montevideo/National Programme Officer, Montevideo

Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/Organisation panaméricaine de la santé (OPS)

- María Isabel Matamala, Punto Focal de la Unidad de Género y Salud en Chile/Focal Point, Gender, Ethnicity and Health Unit, Chile
- Luis Eliseo Velásquez, Consultor en políticas, sistemas y servicios de salud/Consultant in Systems Development and Health Services, Argentina

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

- Marcela Ballara, Oficial Principal, Programa de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Senior Officer, Gender and Development Programme, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)/Organization internationale du travail (OIT)

- María Elena Valenzuela, Coordinadora Subregional, Experta en Género del Proyecto Fondo para la Igualdad de Género/Subregional coordinator, "Gender, Poverty and Employment" project

**C. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales
Other intergovernmental organizations
Autres organisations intergouvernementales**

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)/Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)

- Elena Solari, Coordinadora de programa/Programme Coordinator
- Linda Eriksson, Oficial de Programa, Punto focal de asuntos de género/Programme Officer, Gender Issues focal point

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)/Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture

- Mariana Fossatti, Especialista en desarrollo rural, Uruguay

**D. Secretaría
Secretariat
Secrétariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (CEPALC)

- Marta Maurás, Secretaria de la Comisión/Secretary of the Commission
- Sonia Montaña, Jefa, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo/Chief, Women and Development Unit
- Nieves Rico, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo/Social Affairs Officer, Women and Development Unit

- Irma Arriagada, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Desarrollo Social/Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division
- Diane Alméras, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo/Associate Social Affairs Officer, Women and Development Unit
- Flavia Marco, experta, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo/Expert, Women and Development Unit
- Luis Fidel Yáñez, Asesor Legal/Legal Adviser
- Vivian Milosavljevic, Asistente de investigación, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo/Research assistant, Women and Development Unit

Sede Subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

- Gaietry Pargass, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales/Social Affairs Officer